

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 February 2007 (22.02.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/021654 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
B08B 3/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/030773

(22) International Filing Date: 7 August 2006 (07.08.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
11/204,907 15 August 2005 (15.08.2005) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

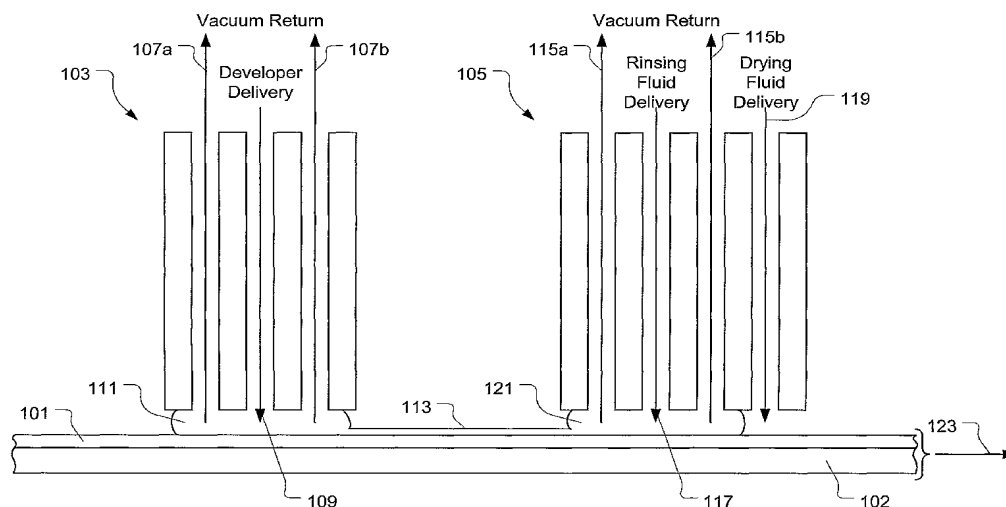
Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
8 November 2007

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR DEVELOPING PHOTORESIST AND METHOD FOR OPERATING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: A first proximity head is configured to define a meniscus of a photoresist developer solution on a substrate. The meniscus is to be defined between a bottom of the first proximity head and the substrate. A second proximity head is configured to define a rinsing meniscus on the substrate and remove the rinsing meniscus from the substrate. The second proximity head is positioned to follow the first proximity head relative to a traversal direction of the first and second proximity heads over the substrate. Exposure of the substrate to the meniscus of photoresist developer solution causes previously irradiated photoresist material on the substrate to be developed to render a patterned photoresist layer. The first and second proximity heads enable precise control of a residence time of the photoresist developer solution on the substrate during the development process.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 06/30773

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - B08B 3/00 (2007.01)

USPC - 430/326

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
USPC - 430/326

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC - 430/326, 134/95.2, 430/313, 430/314

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Electronic Databases Searched: photoresist, cleaning, rinsing, drying, developer, IPA, water, proximity head, meniscus, vacuum, residence time

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X — Y	US 2004/0182422 A1 (Boyd et al.) 23 September 2004 (23.09.2004), entire document, especially para [0102]-[0104] and para [0115].	1-3, 5-7 and 10-22 4, 8 and 9
Y	US 6,794,300 B1 (Hillman) 21 September 2004 (21.09.2004), entire document, especially col. 4, ln 38-67.	4, 8 and 9

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 June 2007 (23.06.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report

29 AUG 2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

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PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

PUB-NO: WO2007021654A2
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: WO 2007021654 A2
TITLE: APPARATUS FOR DEVELOPING
PHOTORESIST AND METHOD FOR
OPERATING THE SAME
PUBN-DATE: February 22, 2007

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APPL-NO: US2006030773

APPL-DATE: August 8, 2006

PRIORITY-DATA: US20490705A (August 15, 2005)

ABSTRACT:

CHG DATE=20071116 STATUS=O>A first proximity
head is configured to define a meniscus of a

photoresist developer solution on a substrate. The meniscus is to be defined between a bottom of the first proximity head and the substrate. A second proximity head is configured to define a rinsing meniscus on the substrate and remove the rinsing meniscus from the substrate. The second proximity head is positioned to follow the first proximity head relative to a traversal direction of the first and second proximity heads over the substrate. Exposure of the substrate to the meniscus of photoresist developer solution causes previously irradiated photoresist material on the substrate to be developed to render a patterned photoresist layer. The first and second proximity heads enable precise control of a residence time of the photoresist developer solution on the substrate during the development process.